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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/980,435	01/25/2002	Edward Swccncy	01:222	2863

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EXAMINER

PERRIN, JOSEPH L

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1746

DATE MAILED: 03/24/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/980,435

Applicant(s)

SWEENEY, EDWARD

Examiner

Joseph L. Perrin, Ph.D.

Art Unit

1746

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 January 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 12-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 12-17 and 24-26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 18-23 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 03 December 2001 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include the following reference sign(s) mentioned in the description: Outer end part 14B of core 14. A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Objections

2. Claims 21-23 are objected to because of the following informalities: There appears to be a typographical error in the claims. In line 2 of each claim, the term "fir" appears to correspond to the term --fit-- (as in "push fit") throughout the specification. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 12-17 & 24-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US 4,969,927 to Schumann *et al.* (hereinafter "Schumann").

Re claim 12, Schumann discloses a washing apparatus with a perforated two-part substantially drum shaped article holder (214 & 211; see col. 15, lines 35-44 and Figure 15).

Re claims 13 & 14, Schumann further discloses the holder including an axial core (216) in each of the two parts (aperture 213 in inner portion of 214; see Figure 15 and associated text).

Re claim 15, Schumann further discloses the axial core being hollow and slotted (see 220 of Figure 15 and associated text).

Re claim 16, Schumann further discloses various fastening means for fastening the two parts (see col. 14, lines 42-52).

Re claim 17, Schumann further discloses the holder as being in various cylindrical shapes (see Figures 1-3, 11-13, 15, 17-18) which are construed as being "substantially the shape of a sphere".

Re claims 24-26, Schumann further discloses the core (216) formed by a socket (213) and spigot (218) configuration (see Figure 15) which secures the parts together.

It is noted that in claim 12, the phrase "for use in cleaning the flexible slats of a louver blind" is given little patentable weight since this language is directed intended use. Claims directed to apparatus must be distinguished from the prior art in terms of structure rather than function. *In re Danly*, 263 F.2d 844, 847, 120 USPQ 528, 531 (CCPA 1959). "[A]pparatus claims cover what a device is, not what a device does." *Hewlett-Packard Co. v. Bausch & Lomb Inc.*, 909 F.2d

1464, 1469, 15 USPQ2d 1525, 1528 (Fed. Cir. 1990). (emphasis in original)

The position is taken that the apparatus of Schumann would be capable of cleaning such blinds and, therefore, the recitation of Schumann reads on Applicant's claimed invention.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 18-23 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

6. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: The closest prior art of record, US 4,696,927 to Schumann, fails to teach each and every limitation of the instant invention. Specifically, Schumann fails to teach or suggest the claimed invention further including the two parts being formed by a plurality of quadrant shaped web plates between an extended core and a surface of the chamber (claim 18), a dispensing container provided inside the axial core (claims 19-20), or one part of the core having a series of protuberances capable of push fit into a corresponding series of holes in the other part (claims 21-23), which are disclosed as essential elements of claimed invention, as described in claims 18-23.

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

US 6,070,282 to Underly *et al.*, which discloses a cylindrical perforated container for washing textiles.

US 5,299,587 to Randall *et al.*, which discloses a perforated container for washing parts.

US 4,109,397 to Daily, which discloses a perforated rectangular container for treating objects in a washer or dryer.

DE 3716989 to Skoruppa, which discloses a blind washing container with perforated bottom.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joseph L. Perrin, Ph.D. whose telephone number is (571)272-1305. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:00-4:30, except alternate Fridays.

9. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Randy P. Gulakowski can be reached on (571)272-1302. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 1746

10. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Joseph L. Perrin, Ph.D.
Examiner
Art Unit 1746

jlp

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph L. Perrin", written in a cursive style.